

DRAWING AMENDMENTS

Please amend Figures 7-13 and 15 by substituting the replacement sheets appended to this Amendment for the originally filed drawing sheets including these figures. Annotated sheets showing the changes made on the replacement sheets are also appended to this Amendment.

REMARKS

By way of the claim amendments appearing above, claim 17 is rewritten in independent form so as to include all limitations of claim 16, which is now canceled. Certain dependent claims are also amended for consistency. No new issues which would preclude entry of this Amendment are raised, and entry of the Amendment is in order. After entry of the Amendment, claims 17-27 will remain in the application, and claims 1-16 and 28 will be canceled. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

The abstract is amended in the manner suggested by the Examiner.

The objections set forth in sections 4 and 5 on pages 3-5 of the Office Action are overcome by the specification and drawing amendments referred to above.

Currently amended claim 17 includes the limitations previously appearing in both claims 16 and 17. In the Office Action dated November 1, 2005, claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), along with various other claims, as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,194,310 to Lenderink. As noted in the Reply previously filed on September 12, 2005, although the Examiner asserts that the Lenderink material has a transparent reinforcing member 12 interposed between a veneer and a substrate, reference number 12 in fact designates an adhesive layer for bonding the Lenderink backing film 11 to the lamina 10 rather than any sort of reinforcing member. The adhesive layer 12 corresponds to an adhesive, such as that identified by reference number 2 in the present application, which is clearly distinct from the reinforcing member 3. The Lenderink patent lacks a reinforcing member as required by claim 17.

Motivation to add an reinforcing member as recited in claim 17 to the Lenderink sheet, moreover, does not exist, since to do so would be contrary to the Lenderink object of providing a wood surfaced foldable flexible sheet. Although these arguments were presented in the Reply previously filed on September 12, 2005, the arguments were not addressed in the subsequent Office Action dated November 1, 2005.

It is respectfully submitted that claim 17 as it appears above is patentable over the Lenderink patent disclosure. The rest of the claims remaining in this application now depend, either directly or indirectly, on claim 17 and are patentable as well.

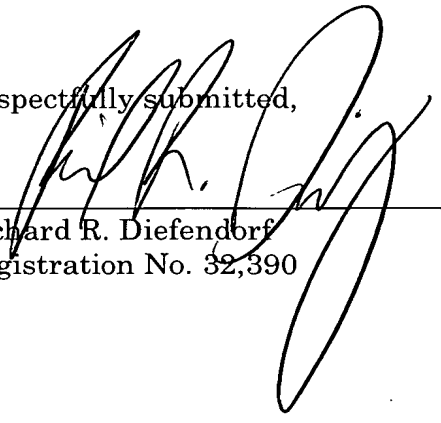
This application will be placed into allowable condition upon entry of this Amendment for reasons discussed above. Entry of the Amendment and reconsideration of the application are in order and are requested.

If there are any questions regarding this Amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an extension of time sufficient to effect a timely response. Please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #525/50004).

January 27, 2006

Respectfully submitted,



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FIG. 6

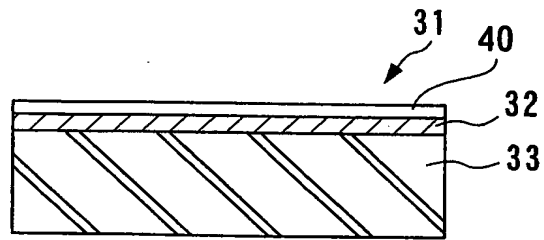


FIG. 7

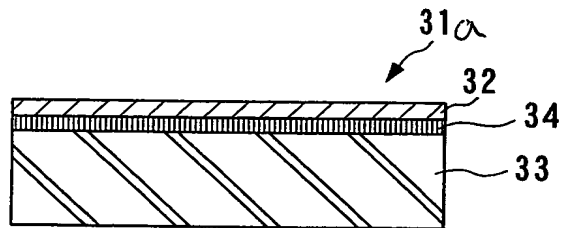


FIG. 8

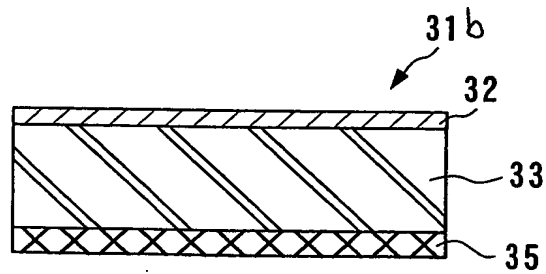




FIG. 9

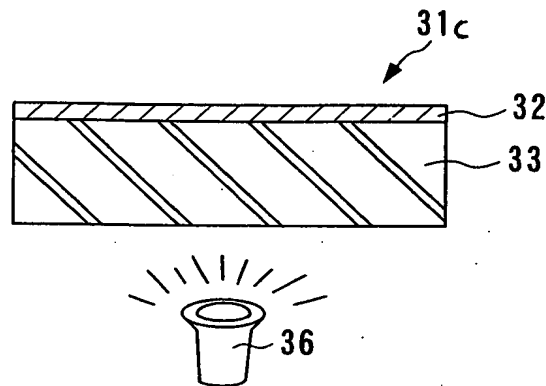


FIG. 10

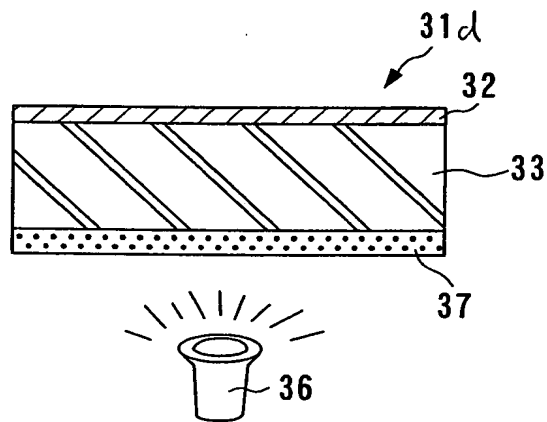
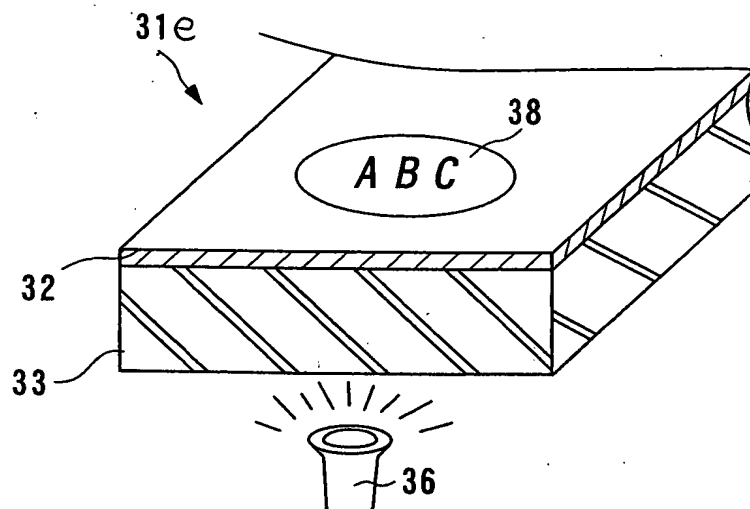
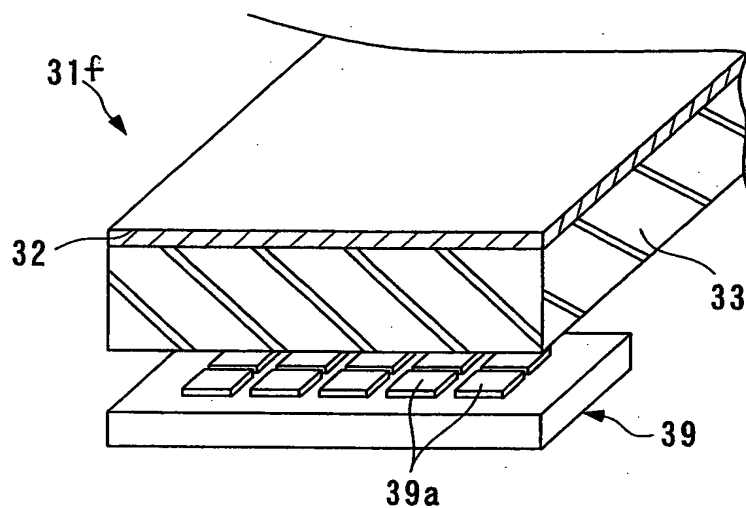


FIG. 11



F I G. 1 2



F I G. 1 3

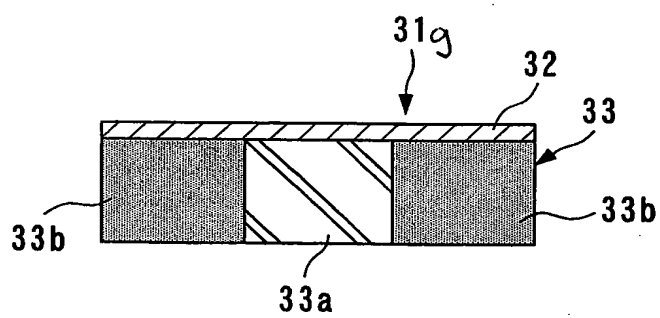




FIG. 14

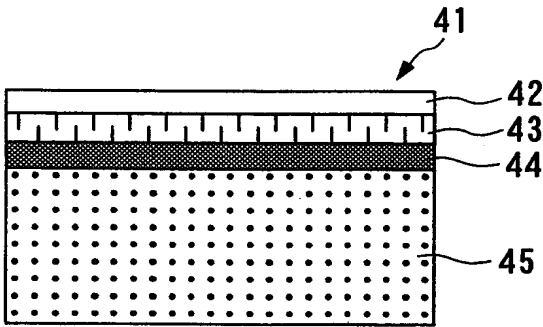


FIG. 15

